

# SOWING SEEDS



The Learning Collaborative  
*Nurturing young hearts and minds*



## Good Things Are Happening at TLC!

- TLC's recent unannounced licensing inspection from the Division of Child Development & Early Education was perfect. Big kudos to the dedicated and hardworking teachers and staff - receiving no demerits is a terrific accomplishment!
- We are partnering with Read Charlotte and Charlotte Bilingual Preschool on literacy enrichment for TLC home-school activities, keeping up the momentum of last spring's Read Charlotte Reading Check-Up project.
- With CrossRoads Corp. and Charlotte artist John Roderick, TLC's children and parents will participate in a public art mural on the front of the TLC building. This project is a collaboration and reflection of TLC families, partnership programs, and the community. We can't wait to get our hands dirty!
- MPUMC Wesley Foundation's support is creating a Discovery Den for the children of TLC. This special room is a learning lab and occupational therapy space focusing on multi-sensory, hands-on experiences. Through an Arts+ and PNC Grow Up Great partnership, weekly Zooms feature an interactive lesson with materials, a projector, and a large screen provided so children are able to connect with the artist or musician. The Discovery Den is multipurpose and includes space for children who are working with an occupational therapist to have access to mats, an OT swing, and therapeutic materials.

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Support TLC programs!  
[www.tlcharlotte.org](http://www.tlcharlotte.org)

### Family Support & Involvement Community Connections

*Parents are a child's very first – and very best – teacher. Parent Workshops provide important education and resources to create strong families and navigate the educational journey. This fall our Family Support & Involvement virtual workshops focus on topics suggested by parents and presented by community partners.*

**Car seat safety.** In partnership with Atrium Health, TLC parents have the opportunity to participate in a study and receive safety inspections, new car seats, boosters, and gift cards.

**Stay Safe, Stay Healthy.** Experts from Meck County Health Department will talk about Covid, vaccinations, and keeping ourselves healthy - along with plenty of Q&A time. These workshops are always engaging and well-attended.

Other workshops on the schedule are **Team Building/Trust Building** presented by Project 658, **Agnes and Stages of Development** presented by Children's Developmental Services, **Active Reading** with Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, and **The Importance of Having a Medical Home.**



### The Learning Collaborative Mission

To provide a tuition-free, high-quality preschool education to at-risk families through a unique partnership with our children, families, patrons, and community.



## Holiday Elves Keeps on Giving

You may recall about a year ago, TLC had a special giving campaign called Holiday Elves. The goal was to support TLC families at the holidays since many faced a loss of income due to Covid, among other hardships caused by the pandemic. Holiday Elves was a resounding success - and allowed us to continue emergency family support into the new year.

Perhaps inevitably, one of our classrooms went remote for a week in September due to a Covid exposure. Two families became food insecure with parents unable to work for a week or more. Your Holiday Elves support provided groceries, toiletries, and cleaning supplies for families facing great need.

To all of our generous little elves, once again we say THANK YOU!

## Team TLC

The biggest part of what makes TLC special and effective in preparing at-risk children for school success is our amazing teaching staff! As Team TLC, we work together to serve our mission every day.

We are so very grateful for our dedicated and passionate returning teachers, helping everyone start the year off strong! Vanessa Goodwin-NC Pre-K 2, Nia-Cherry Goodwin-NC Pre-K 1, Elissa Fincher-NC Pre-K 1, Meltrene Mitchell-Preschool 2, and Teresa Watkins-Preschool 1.

Our new staff are phenomenal individuals with years of experience in early education and social work. They have absolutely hit the ground running! Kimberly McKellar is NC Pre-K 2 teaching assistant, Cara Watson is a first-year teaching assistant in Preschool 1, and La'Toya Roseboro is co-teacher in our Growing Early learners class of two-year-olds.

Come visit! We are again welcoming our friends for small group tours - contact Pam or Lizzie (see below) to schedule!

**A teacher takes a HAND,  
opens a MIND,  
and touches a HEART.**



## More Good Things!

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- We've rolled out a brand new tech tool for parents and teachers called Tadpoles. This app streamlines TLC school info and communications through daily updates with lesson plans, classroom discovery, learning opportunities, menus, and secure photos of their child at school. Parents had long asked for something that would show how their child was doing during the school day. Teachers share daily updates and adorable photos. Parent feedback is excellent! They are thrilled to have this new look inside TLC to see their child's classroom - especially now because we are not yet back to offering parent volunteer hours on-site.



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Thank you!

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